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RURAL DISTRICT OF HEREFORD

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1956

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

RICHARD WOOD POWER

B.A., F.R.C.S.(Ire), D.P.H.

which includes the

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

DONALD FODEN

M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.



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HEREFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Medical Officer of Health :

R. Wood-Power, B.A., F.R.C.S. (Ire.), D.P.H.,
Public Health Department,
21, East Street,
Hereford.
7th May, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hereford Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you the Annual Report for the above District for the year 1956.

The birth-rate was 15.9 per 1,000, and the death-rate was 11.3 per 1,000 (and when adjusted by the comparability factors supplied by the Registrar General, were respectively 18.6 and 9.3 per 1,000), and the infant mortality rate 25 per 1,000 births.

The report of the Chief Public Health Inspector is appended hereto.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

R. WOOD-POWER.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Clerk to the Council—

R. A. SYMONDS, M.A.(Cantab.) (Part-time).

Medical Officer of Health—

R. WOOD-POWER, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S.(Ire.), D.P.H.
(Part-time).

Chief Public Health Inspector—

DONALD FODEN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B.,
Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Public Health Inspector—

P. A. THOMAS, M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B.

One-half of the salary of the Medical Officer of Health and of the Public Health Inspectors is contributed from grants.

HEREFORD RURAL DISTRICT

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

	1921	1931	1951	1956
Area in acres	65,669	65,669	65,669	65,669
Population (Census) ...	13,894	13,448	17,489	—
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate) ...	—	—	—	17,720
Structurally separate dwellings occupied (Census) ...	2,970	3,146	4,015	4,251
Private Families (Census) ...	3,012	3,207	4,018	—
No. of Parishes	39	39	39	39
Rateable value, 31st March...	£135,217	£52,172	£67,937	£86,438
A Penny Rate produces ...	£429	£207	£280	£349
„ „ „ Housing (1919) Act ...	—	£206	£301	£373

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Live Births—Legitimate	260	143	117	Birth rate 15.9
Illegitimate	22	9	13	(adjusted 18.6)
Still Births	7	5	2	Rate 0.39 per 1,000 Total population.
Deaths	201	105	96	Death rate 11.3 (adjusted 9.3)

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	25
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	23
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	45
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	0
„ „ Malignant Neoplasms (all ages)	24
„ „ Measles (all ages)	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	0

Physical Features and General Character

The Rural District of Hereford is situate in the middle of the county, and completely surrounds the city of Hereford. It is bounded on the north by the Leominster and Wigmore Rural District, on the north-east by the Bromyard Rural District, on the south by the Ross and Whitchurch Rural District, and on the west by the Dore and Bredwardine and Weobley Rural Districts. The middle of the district is low-lying.

In the north Dinmore Hill rises to a height of 747 ft., in the south Orcop Hill to 958 ft., and Aconbury Hill 905 ft., on the west Credenhill is 720 ft., while on the eastern side are Dinedor 595 ft., Backbury 738 ft., and Westhide 422 ft.

The district is well watered. The river Wye flows across from west to east in a very tortuous bed, and the rivers Lugg and Frome flow from north to south until they empty into the Wye. In the low-lying portions, following the courses of the rivers, is alluvial deposit.

Geologically the district is Old Red Sandstone. Credenhill, Dinedor, Dinmore and Callow hills are of Cornstone formation.

The subsoil is gravelly loam in those parishes through which the rivers flow, and in the remainder of the district for the most part marl or clay.

The population at the Census of 1951 showed an increase of 4,041 persons in the Rural District, and varied in the thirty-nine Parishes within the Area from 19 in Dinmore to 2,972 in Credenhill.

Legislation in Force

Bye-laws with respect to Hop and Fruit Pickers were made in 1909, they were amended during 1937; Tents and Vans in 1912, they were amended during 1955; New Buildings in 1918, they were amended during 1954; and Food Bye-Laws in 1950. The Council has adopted Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 requiring the registration of dealers in old metal and marine stores.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Professional Nursing in the Home

There is an adequate number of District Nurses/Midwives in the Area to cover all Parishes.

Their services are provided by the County Council and the Nurses are under the supervision of the Superintendent Nursing Officer.

Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological examinations are made by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at the County Hospital, Hereford, where Dr. D. R. Christie is in charge.

The chemical analyses of water samples are carried out by Messrs. Ellis and Turner, of Gloucester.

Hospitals

Hospital Services for the County of Hereford are under the Management of the Herefordshire Hospital Management Committee, who are responsible for the control of all Hospitals, to which patients can be admitted in case of need.

Ambulance Facilities

Motor Ambulances for sitting or stretcher cases operated by the Herefordshire Joint Ambulance Committee as agents for the local health authority are stationed at County Ambulance Headquarters, Canal Road, Hereford (*Telephone*: 4451/2/3), and are available for the removal of any cases on Medical Authority, on application to the Ambulance Headquarters at the above address.

Trained attendants are on duty day and night to accompany the Ambulances.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	County Hospital.
Venereal Diseases	...	...	...	County Hospital.
Orthopaedic	...	..	...	County Hospital and B.R.C.S. Red Cross Hut, Blackfriars Street, Hereford.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

There are privately owned piped water supplies to houses in certain parishes in the area but shallow wells or springs provide supplies in many instances, although in recent years deep bores have been sunk in quite a number of cases. In the parishes of Aconbury, Little Birch, Much Birch and Little Dewchurch, many houses are particularly badly off for water.

A scheme for a supply of water to houses at Shucknall Hill, Weston Beggard was completed in 1938 and the Hereford City Supply is laid on to parts of various parishes which adjoin the City boundary.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government decided that this Council should operate the Ex R.A.F. supply with pumping station at Eaton Bishop and plans to extend this supply to the parishes of Eaton Bishop, Clehonger and Allensmore were formulated during the year. The supply provided for the new Council Houses at Much Birch has been extended to Wormelow and a further extension to part of Much Dewchurch Parish has been completed. A proposal to provide the Parish of Withington and parts of adjoining parishes with water from a deep bore hole was the subject of a Ministerial Enquiry and the Minister's decision is still awaited.

Sewerage and Drainage

There is no general system of sewers in the area.

There are two or three areas in the district where housing development took place in pre-war years on the assumption that it would later be possible to connect up to main sewers, but on the outbreak of hostilities in 1939 this provision had to be abandoned. The need for such service still exists. A scheme of Sewage Disposal for the Parish of Fownhope was prepared and is still under consideration. The Council's Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare plans, etc., for the sewerage of Kings Acre Road, Breinton, where existing means of sewage disposal for each individual house are extremely bad and give rise to considerable nuisances.

Swimming Baths and Pools

None in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No infestations were discovered.

National Assistance Acts, 1948 & 1951

It was necessary to secure an Order for the removal to a suitable hospital of one aged male person who was chronically sick, living in insanitary conditions, who was incapable of looking after himself and who was not receiving necessary care from any other person. The patient was still in hospital at the end of 1956.

**PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES**

General.

No cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid or Para-Typhoid Fever, Erysipelas, Meningococcal Infection, Acute Encephalitis or Food Poisoning were notified during the year.

There were five cases of Scarlet Fever all of which occurred in different Parishes. All cases were isolated at home and no deaths occurred from this disease.

The number of cases of Measles and Whooping Cough which were notified showed no increase over the number notified during 1955.

Six cases of Acute Poliomyelitis—four Paralytic and two Non-Paralytic—were notified as having occurred at a Military Establishment in the Area.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

(a)	Total number of outbreaks ...	...	...	...	...	0
(b)	Number of cases ...	...	...	...	...	0
(c)	Number of deaths ...	...	...	...	...	0
(d)	Organisms or other agents responsible :					—

Foods involved : —

HEREFORD RURAL DISTRICT. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1956

DISEASE	Sex	All Ages	CASES NOTIFIED													Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
			Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	55-	65- over		
Scarlet Fever	M.	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	3	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever ...	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	M.	16	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	10	1	2	—	—	—	4	4
	F.	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	5
Measles ...	M.	98	2	9	7	11	6	57	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F.	88	1	11	13	6	7	46	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	M.	7	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
	F.	4	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	M.	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic ...	M.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	M.	15	—	1	—	2	2	9	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	F.	24	—	3	1	—	4	15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—

			CASES			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
			Notified	Treated					
				At Home	In Hosp'l				
Ophthalmia Neonatorium	...	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Nine cases, two deaths.

AGE— PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non- Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non- Pulmonary</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	4	1	3	1	2	—	—	—

In no case was there wilful neglect or refusal to notify.
On the 31st December, 1956, there were on the Register the following cases :

<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
50	43	18	15

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)
REGULATIONS, 1925

No action was necessary during the year.

HEREFORD RURAL DISTRICT. CAUSES OF DEATH, 1956

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—
4. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2
5. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	—	2
6. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3
7. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—
8. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	8	7
9. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1
10. Diabetes	2	1
11. Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	14
12. Coronary disease, angina	21	8
13. Hypertension with heart disease	1	4
14. Other heart disease	27	19
15. Other circulatory disease	1	6
16. Influenza	—	1
17. Pneumonia	4	5
18. Bronchitis	3	1
19. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1
20. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—
21. Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	—	—
22. Nephritis and nephrosis... ..	—	—
23. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
24. Congenital malformations	—	—
25. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	10	19
26. Motor vehicle accidents	2	—
27. All other accidents	2	1
28. Suicide	2	1
TOTAL ...	105	96

INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1956

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age :—

3 hours	...	...	Prematurity
4 hours	...	...	Prematurity
5 hours	...	...	1a Intracranial Haemorrhage b Precipitate Delivery
12 hours	...	...	1a Asphyxia Pallida b Atelectasis
1 day	...	...	Prematurity
3 days	...	...	1a Haemolytic Anaemia b Rh. Incompatibility
1 week	...	...	1a Cerebral Haemorrhage 2 Bronchial Pneumonia

The following report has been given me by the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. Donald Foden, on work carried out during the year ended December, 1956.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

As required by Article XVII (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Inspections under :—								<i>Number</i>
Housing Acts & Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2443
Housing—Tenancy Applications	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	331
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	339
Dairies & Milk Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Food & Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	272
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Hop Pickers' Quarters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Factories with Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Other Premises under Factories Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Work Places	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Petroleum Acts & Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Damage by Pests Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Temporary & Movable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	113
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Scrap Metal Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Out Workers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Housing

The survey of houses in the area has continued and is revealing the fact that apart from houses which will have to be demolished a very considerable number are in need of repair. Out of a total of 1,075 houses surveyed during 1956, 511 houses were found to be in need of repair and action to secure their being made fit in every respect will have to be taken in due course, and 82 houses were found to be incapable of repair at a reasonable cost and will have to be demolished.

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES

(a) UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT					
1.	After informal action	...	...	...	43
2.	After formal notice under :				
	(i) Public Health Acts	...	...	...	2
	(ii) Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	1
(b)	UNFIT HOUSES DEMOLISHED	...	...	...	3
(c)	UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED	...	...	...	9

HOUSING ACT, 1949 (PART II)

1.	Applications for assistance received	...	...	...	36
(a)	Number approved	...	...	...	36
(b)	Number disallowed	...	...	...	—
(c)	Number pending	...	...	...	—

NEW HOUSES

Number of New Houses erected during the year :

(a)	Total	...	...	...	...	60
(b)	With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—					
	(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	10
	(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	4

The Council, who own 56 pre-war houses, have formulated a programme for the provision of new houses in the area, and decided that the allotments should be distributed as far as possible over the whole district.

The following houses have been constructed by the Council since the war :—Much Birch (22), Burghill (20), Clehonger (8), Much Dewchurch (6), Dormington (6), Eaton Bishop (8), Fownhope (38), Holme Lacy (18), Lugwardine (22), Marden (18), Mordiford (32), Preston Wynne (8), Stoke Edith (4), Stretton Sugwas (18), Sutton (8), Wellington (18), Weston Beggard (10), Withington (24).

The Council were allotted eight brick huts with asbestos roofs at the former R.A.F. Camp at Madley, in the Dore and Bredwardine Rural District, and these have been adapted to provide 29 bungalows, each of which has a bathroom and w.c., water is laid on, and all have main drainage.

Nuisances.

Six Statutory Notices were served during the year, requiring the abatement of nuisances arising from disrepair of houses and drainage disposal. All other nuisances were satisfactorily overcome by informal action.

Infectious Diseases.

Twenty-three cases of infectious diseases were investigated and 8 rooms and 14 lots of bedding were fumigated.

Water Supplies.

Ten samples have been submitted for Chemical Analysis and 181 samples for Bacteriological Examination, with the following results :—

				<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Chemical ...	...	...	...	5	5
Bacteriological ...	...	...	...	89	92

Dairies and Milk Supplies.

There are on the register 21 distributors of milk, of whom one is a distributor of T.T., Pasteurised and Sterilised milk, fifteen are distributors of both T.T. milk and Pasteurised milk, whilst three retail only T.T. milk and two retail only Pasteurised milk. In addition, so far as is known, there are 18 producers of milk, who are registered with the Ministry of Agriculture, who are also distributors in the area of milk for retail sale. Of this latter number seven are known to be retailing T.T. milk, and eleven purchase and retail Pasteurised milk.

Thirty-eight samples of milk were submitted for biological examination eight of which revealed the presence of *Brucella Abortus*, the milk from the cows concerned was thereafter pasteurised.

Dairies and Milk Supplies (*Continued*).

Twenty samples of T.T. and Pasteurised Milk were submitted for examination with the following results :—

Satisfactory	...	...	20
Unsatisfactory	...	...	0

As from the 1st October, 1956, the whole of the Hereford Rural District became part of a Specified Area, so that only T.T., Pasteurised, and Sterilised milk may be sold by retail therein.

Food and Food Premises.

The number of known food premises in the Area is as follows—

General Food Shops...	...	...	...	...	43
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	4
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	...	...	4
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	2
Canteens	...	...	...	...	28
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	38
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	46

Twenty-eight premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 as follows :—

Storage and Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	25
Preparation of Fish and Chips	...	...	...	1
Manufacture of Sausages	...	...	...	2

During the year, 203 inspections of food premises were carried out, of which 32 related to registered food premises and the initial survey of premises under the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56 was still proceeding at the end of the year. At the majority of premises visited, it was discovered that there was non-compliance with some of the provisions of the Regulations and informal intimations were sent to the persons concerned.

A lecture on the provisions of the new Regulations was given by the Chief Public Health Inspector to one of the Women's Institutes in the Area.

Nineteen samples of Ice Cream were submitted for examination and were reported upon as falling within the following Grades :—

Grade I	...	...	18
Grade II	...	...	1
Grade III	...	...	—
Grade IV	...	...	—

Food and Food Premises (Continued).

One knacker's yard is registered within the Area and one slaughterhouse is licensed and the following table sets out the carcasses inspected and condemned wholly or in part and these figures include 1 cow, 1 bullock, 1 calf, 8 pigs and 13 sheep which were the subject of emergency slaughter at places elsewhere than at the licensed slaughterhouse.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	<i>Cattle Excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed (if known)	35	1	1	125	32	—
Number inspected	35	1	1	125	32	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cystercerci</i> Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	2	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	9	—	—	29	3	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerici	25.7%	100%	—	24.8%	12.5%	—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number in- spected affected with tubercu- losis	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i> Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

In addition twenty turkeys—weight 272 lbs.—were examined, found to be unfit for human consumption, were condemned and destroyed.

All condemned food was disposed of by incineration.

Factories

There are 59 factories within the district, all with mechanical power.

1. Inspections :

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power ...	27	2	—
Factories without mechanical power	—	—	—
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)	20	2	—
TOTALS	47	4	—

2. Defects found :

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ...	7	7	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:				
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	4	4	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	12	12	—	—

3. Outwork in unwholesome premises—Nil.

Hop Pickers.

The By-laws in connection with accommodation for persons engaged in the gathering of Hops, Fruit and Vegetables made in 1909 have been rescinded, and new By-laws made by the Council on the 26th June, 1937, were confirmed by the Minister of Health and came into operation on the 20th August, 1937.

About 470 pickers came from outside Herefordshire, chiefly South Wales and the Midlands, to 10 farms. Barns, stables and other outbuildings are utilised for their accommodation although in the majority of cases specially erected buildings are provided.

The number of pickers has decreased still further during 1956 as still more farms installed mechanical picking machines.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act.

One Inspector/Operator is employed, but his services are shared jointly with the Ross and Whitchurch R.D. and the Ledbury R.D. The table set out hereunder records his work in this area during 1956 :—

	Prem- ises In- spected	No. of In- spec- tions	Total Infes- tations	RATS		Writ- ten In- formal Notices	Statu- tory Notices
				Major	Minor		
Local Authorities'							
Properties ...	3	64	11	5	6	—	—
Dwelling Houses ...	136	190	59	—	59	—	—
Business Premises ...	19	39	12	5	7	—	—
Agricultural							
Properties ...	99	125	49	1	48	—	—
TOTALS ...	257	418	131	11	120	—	—

The operational work carried out was on property belonging to the Local Authority—no treatments are carried out on a contract basis or otherwise at private properties.

No Statutory Action was necessary during the year under review.

Temporary and Movable Dwellings.

These present a problem of some magnitude, and one not likely to be diminished until the general housing shortage becomes less acute.

Refuse Collection.

There is in operation a system whereby refuse is collected in each of the 39 parishes in this district once in every four-weekly period, and in certain areas near Hereford City such collection is effected once in each fortnight.

During 1956, 710 loads of refuse—approximately the equivalent of 3,550 cubic yards—were collected and hauled to the three disused quarries used for disposal. A total of 13,322 miles was involved.

Consideration was being given at the end of 1956 to the purchase of a new and larger refuse collection vehicle, and if it is decided to secure such a vehicle, it might be found possible to arrange for more frequent collections to be carried out.

DONALD FODEN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B.,
Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

Public Health Department,
21, East Street, Hereford.

15th February, 1957.

Tel. : 2200 Ex. 5.

